

## Individuals

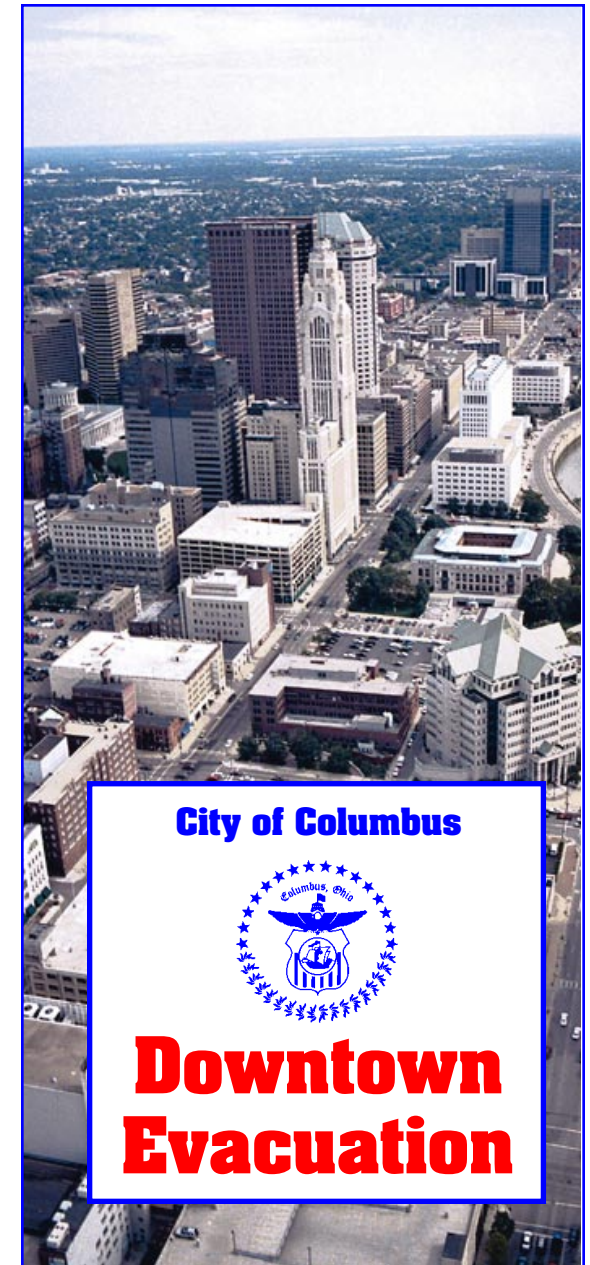
- Know your company/building emergency procedures
- If evacuated, use designated routes as instructed
- Pre-plan evacuation car pools
- Follow all instructions of safety personnel, emergency responders, and traffic controllers
- Discuss plans with family members concerning emergency phone numbers and meeting locations outside the affected area.

## Will COTA be operating?

Depending on the nature of the incident, COTA will continue to operate and supply buses for a more orderly and quicker evacuation. COTA will transport evacuees from assembly areas to shelters or the outer perimeter.



**American Red Cross**  
of Greater Columbus



**City of Columbus**



**Downtown  
Evacuation**

This pamphlet contains information which will safely guide you out of the danger area.

For more information view  
the City of Columbus web site at:  
[www.columbus.gov](http://www.columbus.gov)

## Be Prepared

An emergency in the downtown area can have dire consequences if you are not prepared. The City of Columbus along with the Emergency Management Agency for Franklin County has developed guidelines for both vehicular and pedestrian evacuation for the downtown Columbus area.

## Who will order an evacuation?

The decision to evacuate will be made by the Incident Commander after consulting with officials of the City of Columbus.

## What are the types of evacuations?

**Precautionary Evacuation** — This type will be used when it has been determined that a credible threat exists in the downtown area. It can be limited to a specific area or include the entire downtown area.

**Emergency Evacuation** — An emergency evacuation will be ordered if an event has occurred in or close to the downtown area which will likely affect persons in the designated area. **PLEASE – Remain calm and follow instructions**

**Walking Evacuation** — Depending on the type of event it may necessary to depart the area on foot. This decision will be made by the Incident Commander. Emergency personnel will guide and direct people in the proper direction.

**Vehicular Evacuation** — If the situation permits, the evacuation will be accomplished by car, or bus. To avoid congestion on the roadways it may be necessary to do emergency car pooling.

## Can everyone leave at the same time?

This may not always be possible. The people in the immediate area of the event will be evacuated first. If for any reason your area is not released, to leave, you will receive further instructions. One option at the time is to **Shelter in Place** — Stay in your building, do not go into the street, shut down ventilation systems, and wait for instructions.

## How will notifications be made?

Columbus is fortunate indeed to have available many different systems which can be used to notify residents of dangers in the area. At the beginning of the event a Joint Public Information Center will be established. The Public Information Officer will constantly update the media on the current situation, evacuation plans and routes as well as any other information which would be useful.

We also have the Emergency Alert System or EAS which can broadcast over local radio stations. Recently NOAA Weather Radio started alerting the public for all hazards, not just weather. The county also has 121 outdoor warning sirens which have voice capabilities. In addition police and fire personnel have PA systems on their vehicles and they can also go door to door. Information can also be posted on the City's Website. Soon the county hopes to have on line a Reverse — 911 system which can be used to notify thousands of residents within minutes.

## What can you do?

### Businesses

- Have up to date building evacuation and Shelter in Place plans.
- Have a reliable means of receiving and disseminating information to everyone in the building
- Communicate and practice plans with employees
- Encourage employees to pre-plan evacuation car pools

## What are the downtown boundaries?

For the purpose of this plan, the downtown area will be comprised of the following area.

- North – I-670
- East – I-71
- South – I-70/71
- West – Scioto River

